

- (iii) to raise the quality of products and maintain standards;
- (iv) to foster the growth of new products and new manufacturing units through market support and management advice;
- (v) to lower distribution costs and to introduce fair and better trading practices such as fixed prices etc. and
- (vi) to provide an information service to both producers and consumers.

(b) The total strength of employees in Super Bazar is 2069.

(c) and (d) A group of various staff Associations of Super Bazar had submitted a representation which inter-alia suggested to stop issue of press statements regarding the closure of Super Bazar and to sanction Rs. 25 crores as loan for running Super Bazar. The Government has not made any provision of loan to Super Bazar in the budget for the year 2000-2001. Super Bazar has its own Board of Directors to decide about its activities relating to finance, administration and business on day to day basis. Super Bazar has been advised to improve its business activities and to curtail expenditure on entertainment newspapers, transportation, overtime allowance, postponement of purchases of furniture staff cars and also to take stringent action to curb the pilferage of stocks by its staff.

Availability of More Commodities Through PDS

3304. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately decided to cut down the prices of wheat and rice to make more commodities available through Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the demand made by Gujarat for supply of different PDS items this year so far and how far the same has been complied with, indicating reasons for short-supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice under the Public Distribution System (PDS) has been reduced w.e.f. 25.7.2000 and are as follows:

(Rupees in quintal)

Commodity	BPL	APL
Wheat	415/-	830/-
Rice	565/-	
(a) Common	565/-	
(b) Grade 'A'	565/-	1130/-

A scheme titled "Sarvapriya" has been launched in July, 2000. It envisages distribution of eleven selected commodities of daily use viz., Arhar Dal, Gram Dal, Malka Red, Urad Whole, Salt, Tea, Toilet Soaps, Detergent cake, Exercise Note books, Edible oil and Tooth Paste. The State Governments have the option to choose the items as per their requirement/preferences. The items will be distributed on profit no loss basis in suitable consumer packs through the existing PDS outlets, retail unit of Civil Supplies Corporations and Consumer Cooperatives.

(c) and (d) Additional demand of PDS items from Gujarat and its supply is as under:—

Foodgrains: As requested by the Government of Gujarat, special additional allocation of 3,19,205 MT of foodgrains (1,27,682 MT rice and 1,91,523 MT wheat) was made at BPL rates for distribution to 53,20,088 drought affected families (BPL APL) @20 kg. per family per month for 3 months. Further, special additional allocation of 75,000 of foodgrains (60,000 MT of wheat and 15,000 MT of rice) was also made to Gujarat at BPL rates for drought relief under "Food for Work Programmes".

Sugar: Most of the States/UTs are allocated levy sugar @ 425 gms. per capita per month for the projected population as on 1.3.1999 w.e.f. 1.3.2000. In addition, about 1 lakh tonne of levy sugar is released every year which is allocated amongst the States/UTs in the month (s) of their choice, for meeting the requirements of festivals. However, the monthly levy sugar quota of States/UTs stands reduced w.e.f. 1st July, 2000 on account of exclusion of income-tax assesses and their family members from PDS sugar. Neither any demand for supply of sugar has been received this year from the Govt. of Gujarat or are the sugar allocations made as per the demand/requirement of States/UTs. The monthly levy and festival quota of sugar in PDS of the Gujarat State w.e.f. 1.1.1996 and revised from 1.3.2000 are as below:

In MTs			
From 1.1.1997 to 29.2.2000	March to June, 2000	July onwards	Annual Festival Quota
17557	20212	18035	4878

Edible Oil: No request has been received from Government of Gujarat.
Kerosene: The annual SKO allocation to the State of Gujarat during the year 1999-2000 was 832432 MT and the same allocation has been made during the year 2000-2001. In addition, the Government has made ad-hoc allocation of 2000 KLs of SKO to the State in view of unprecedented.

Villages Covered by PDS

3305. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages covered by the PDS, State-wise;
- (b) the mode of transport of PDS items into interior villages where metalled roads do not exist;
- (c) how do Government ascertain that all the items in PDS reach to the villages; and
- (d) how many times physical verifications were made during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) As per reports received from the State Government/UT Administrations all villages in the country are covered under Public Distribution System (PDS) through a network of 368417 fair price shops in rural areas. Statewise list of fair price shops in the country as reported by State Government/UT Administrations is enclosed as statement (*See below*).

(b) State Governments/UT Administrations have adopted various locally suitable and available modes of transport e.g., tractors and trollies, jeep, mini-vans or light vehicles, bullock carts, mules, boats and porters for transportation of PDS items to remote villages in areas where metalled roads do not exist.

(c) and (d) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of Government of India and the State Government/UT Administrations. While the Central Government is responsible for procuring and making available to the States the PDS commodities up to the designated depots of FCI, the responsibility of distribution to the card holders through the network of fair price shops rests with the State Government. The States have been instructed to formulate and implement foolproof arrangements for delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops and for their distribution in transparent and accountable manner. State Government have been instructed to conduct surprise checks on FPS and actively involve Panchyati Raj Institutions at FPS level for monitoring apart from activating Vigilance Committees at all levels.